

Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program



The Great Lakes is a premier national aquatic resource, containing approximately 90% of the U.S. supply of fresh water. The geography, surface area, and volume of this freshwater resource have great importance—economic, ecological, and societal—making restoration, protection and sustainable use of the lakes a national priority.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries Service FY 2008 budget request includes \$1.5M for the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program. With this funding, NOAA's program will support restoration projects that significantly improve habitat function and expand benefits for coastal communities.

NOAA will address Great Lakes priority needs and implement existing recommendations.

NOAA will consider priority needs identified by the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force and recommendations of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, and build on its ongoing Great Lakes habitat restoration efforts to:

- Establish a cross-NOAA Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program Office at NOAA's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory.
- Use a competitive process and a partnership approach to fund and provide technical assistance to restoration projects.
- Fund research and monitoring activities to address critical project-specific restoration needs and improve the science of Great Lakes restoration.

NOAA's unique contribution to Great Lakes restoration includes expertise in:

- Restoring habitat and addressing contamination.
- Using local and regional partnerships for restoration.
- Taking a science-based ecosystem approach.



Fort Covington Dam in Fort Covington, New York. Removal of the dam, scheduled for summer 2007, will re-establish access to 35 miles of the Salmon River and its tributaries.

With full funding, NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program will support restoration projects that achieve significant improvement in habitat function and provide community-wide human use benefits.

The centerpiece of the program will be one or more restoration projects in an Area of Concern that: are based on strong science and data availability; are ecosystem focused; and, involve significant problems and lake-wide improvements. Project areas should include locations where: 1) maximum use can be made of on-going restoration efforts and partnerships, 2) availability of matching funds are met, 3) the problem is significant to the Great Lakes region, NOAA's mission and established priorities, and, 4) there is a scientific merit in restoration

NOAA envisions working jointly on such a partnership through its Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program (GLHRP) to fund and administer a project that supports community-identified priorities such as: 1) restoring and enhancing critical, nearshore areas, tributaries and connecting channels; 2) remediating basin-wide sources of stress; 3) protecting healthy functioning areas; and, 4) monitoring ecosystem health.

The combination of expertise in science-based ecosystem approaches to addressing contamination and achieving restoration, experience in conducting competitive proposal processes for project development, and existing regional and national partnerships are NOAA's unique contributions to Great Lakes restoration.

NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program Seeks Partners for Habitat Restoration

NOAA will soon be inviting applications requesting funding to establish regional habitat restoration partnerships in FY 2008. The partnership(s) is expected to catalyze the implementation of habitat restoration projects that will benefit coastal resources through improved Great Lakes habitat. The centerpiece of the program will be one or more restoration projects in an Area of

Concern that: are based on strong science and data availability; are ecosystem focused; and, involve significant problems and lake-wide improvements.

For more information on NOAA's Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program, contact:

Cynthia Sellinger, Coordinator
Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Program
(734) 741-2385
Cynthia.Sellinger@noaa.gov

NOAA Habitat Program
<http://habitat.noaa.gov>



Map depicts locations of sites where NOAA is actively working with partners in remedial process and restoration planning, and community-based restoration projects.